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19 February 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Staff

SUBJECT : Request for Research and Development Directed Toward
the Fabrication of a Powered Balloon

1. Description of the Project

The program proposed herein is a continuation of work leading toward the development of a relatively small, field inflatable, light weight, highly maneuverable powered balloon.

To overcome the inherent clumsiness and large size associated with lighter-than-air craft much of the work is basic research in the areas of boundary layer control, new materials, and propulsion techniques for reduced aerodynamic drag and a higher degree of maneuverability, stability, and control.

A one year basic study has been completed on this project and from the results obtained a program has been proposed for continuing this work in three phases from the basic study to delivery and acceptance of the end item. Phase I will continue basic research in the areas described above and will include laboratory, wind tunnel and field tests of scale models. This work will result in a preliminary design of the vehicle and is estimated to take one year to complete. Phase II will consist of fabrication, flight testing and redesign of the vehicle resulting in a final design. Phase III will involve the construction acceptance tests and delivery of the vehicle. Phases II and III are estimated to take one year.

2. Purpose of the Project

The vehicle resulting from the successful completion of this development would provide a means [redacted]

[redacted] Such a vehicle would be used as [redacted] balloon is used to cross a border but would have the added capability of [redacted]

[redacted] Or, it could pick up the agent at the point and bring him out.

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3. Recommended Contractor

The recommended contractor for this work is [redacted]

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4. Support Requirements

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5. Cost

The total cost for Phase I of this work is estimated at \$100,366.00. [] funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 will be used to support this Phase if and when supplementary funds are made available []. A partial procurement of \$80,366.00 is requested in expectation of [] support. The total cost of all proposed future work for Phases I, II and III is estimated at \$348,134.00 and it is believed that future Navy financial support is possible. The cost of the one year basic study which has been completed was \$40,048.00. Charges for the \$80,366.00 are to be made against Allotment Number 8-2502-10.

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6. Security Information

The work itself will be unclassified as will the end item. Agency interest in this work will be classified Secret and may be divulged only to Agency cleared personnel and then only on a need-to-know basis.

7. Project Engineer

The project engineer for this program is [] Room 210, West Outbuilding, extension []

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Chief
TSS/Engineering Division

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